

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

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R 261740Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3451

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2729

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: CISL MINORITY MEETING

(A) STATE 037710 (B) ROME 14019 OF DECEMBER 17, 1973.

1. SUMMARY. CISL MINORITY GROUP LED BY SCALIA HELD MEETING LAST WEEK END. GROUP CRITICAL OF CISL UNITARY POLICY DESCRIBING IT AS SELF-DESTRUCTIVE TENDENCY. UNION DECISION TO HOLD GENERAL STRIKE ALSO CRITICIZED. MINORITY DECLINED RESPONSIBILITY FOR CISL POLICIES AND THREATENED TO WITHDRAW FROM SECRETARIAT. MINORITY MEETING ATTACKED NOT ONLY BY CISL MAJORITY BUT ALSO BY MINORITY LEADERS MARINI AND FANTONI WHO NOW PLAYING MEDIATORY ROLE. POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION EFFECT OF MEETING WILL DEPEND ON UPCOMING GATHERING OF DC PARTY CHIEFS WITH CISL MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS. END SUMMARY.

2. MEETING OF CISL MINORITY LED BY SCALIA WHICH HAD BEEN POSTPONED FROM MID-JANUARY (REFTEL B) WAS FINALLY CONVENED FEBRUARY 21-22. ACCORDING TO SCALIA 1500 DELEGATES FROM CISL UNIONS, INCLUDING  
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DISSIDENT METAL AND CHEMICAL WORKERS, ATTENDED. HOWEVER, SECRETARIAT

MEMBER FRANCO MARINI TOLD EMBASSY ONLY 400 TO 500 MEMBERS WERE PRESENT.

A MOST NOTABLE ASPECT OF THE MEETING, IN FACT, WAS THE NON-PARTICIPATION OF 2 OUT OF 3 MINORITY GROUP SECRETARIAT MEMBERS. BOTH MARINI (MINORITY GROUP LEADER WITH THE HIGHEST VOTE COUNT AT THE 1973 CISL CONGRESS) AND FANTONI HAD INFORMED SCALIA THAT THE MINORITY MEETING AND OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS WERE ILL ADVISED. THEY CALLED ON THE MINORITY GROUP TO CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT MODIFY CISL POLICIES, MOST IMPORTANTLY ON THE LABOR UNITY ISSUE, BY WORKING TO INFLUENCE THE MAJORITY. MARINI AND FANTONI PROFESSED TO SEE SOME RECENT POSITIVE SIGNS IN THIS REGARD.

3. MINORITY MEETING CAREFULLY SKIRTED THE ISSUE OF A CISL SPLIT, INDEED DISCUSSION REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR THE CISL TO REDISCOVER ITS PROPER ROLE. HOWEVER, THE MINORITY DECLINED RESPONSIBILITY FOR CISL DECISIONS AND THREATENED TO LEAVE THE CISL SECRETARIAT AT A POLITICALLY OPPORTUNE MOMENT. SHOULD THIS TRANSPIRE AND MINORITY MEMBER TACCONI LEAVE THE SECRETARIAT, AND SHOULD AN ANTICIPATED REPLACEMENT OF SECRETARIAT MEMBER BALDINI WITH MILITANT METALWORKER CARNITI TAKE PLACE, MINORITY INFLUENCE UPON CISL POLICY WOULD BE FURTHER DECREASED.

4. FINAL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION CONDEMNED CISL ACQUIESCENCE IN UNITARY MOVES WHICH IT CLAIMED FAVOR ONLY THE PCI AND COMMUNIST POLICY OF COLLABORATION WITH CATHOLIC FORCES AS A STEP TOWARD POLITICAL POWER. CONCERNING THE FEBRUARY 27 GENERAL STRIKE THE MINORITY CALLED FOR ADHERENCE TO THE FEDERATION CGIL, CISL ,  
UIL DECISION IN THE NAME OF SOLIDARITY BUT CRITICIZED THE STRIKE AS ILL ADVISED IN THIS PERIOD OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CRISIS.

5. PUBLIC REACTION OF THE CISL MAJORITY TO THE SCALIA MEETING HAD BEEN LIMITED TO A CRITICAL SECRETARIAT STATEMENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL STORTI'S COMMENT THAT THE MEETING HAD NO POLITICAL JUSTIFICATION SINCE THE CISL HAD NEVER SUPPRESSED INTERNAL DEBATE. STORTI CHOSE NOT TO CONDEMN MEETING AS "SPLITTING" EFFORT BUT INSTEAD POINTED OUT IT WAS NOT A CONTRIBUTION TO THAT INTERNAL UNITY THAT ALL THE CISL DESIRED. STORTI CALLED ON THE MINORITY TO ACCEPT "DEMOCRATIC RULE" ADDING THAT THE MINORITY WAS NOW OUT NUMBERED 4-1.

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6. COMMENT: THE SCALIA MEETING CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD IN A BROADER POLITICAL CONTEXT. ASSESSMENT OF ITS IMPORT MUST AWAIT AN EXPECTED MARCH 1 MEETING OF STORTI, SCALIA AND OTHER CISL LEADERS WITH DC PARTY CHIEFS, AMONG THEM FANFANI, DONAT-CATTIN, PICCOLI AND VITTORINO COLBO. ACLI AND ITS SCHISMATIC BROTHER MCL ALSO

MAY SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THIS GATHERING.

7. THE SCALIA SHOW OF FORCE IS PART OF A STRUGGLE TO OBTAIN DC SUPPORT FOR THE SCALIA APPROACH ON LABOR UNITY AND OTHER ISSUES. SOME WITHIN THE SCALIA GROUP ARE CONVINCED THAT WITH DC BACKING THEY COULD FORM A NEW LABOR ORGANIZATION AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE FEDERATION CGIL, CISL, UIL. UP TO NOW, HOWEVER, THE DC HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO ENDORSE A CISL SPLIT AND SEEMS TO BE FAVORING THE MEDIATORY APPROACH AS ESPOUSED BY THE MARINI GROUP. IN THE LONG RUN THIS STRATEGY ENVISIONS A RE-INVIGORATED CISL RUN BY YOUNGER ELEMENTS SUCH AS MARINI, CARNITI AND SARTORI AND THE GRADUAL PASSING FROM THE SCENE OF STORTI AND SCALIA.

8. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS ANY DC DECISION, IF THE PARTY IS IN FACT CAPABLE OF A CLEAR CUT DECISION, WILL BE BASED ON THE REALITIES OF POWER. POTENTIAL INFLUENCE OF SCALIA MEETING LESSENERED BY PARTICIPATION OF ONLY ONE SECRETARIAT MEMBER AND PREDOMINANCE OF SOUTHERN AND AGRICULTURAL UNIONS (LEADERS OF CISL RAILROAD, ELECTRICAL AND TRANSPORT UNIONS WERE ALSO PRESENT). ALSO IN REFERENDUM PERIOD THE DC IS LIKELY TO CONCENTRATE ON THE POLITICAL NECESSITY FOR CISL TO COVER ITS DIFFERENCES AND PULL TOGETHER. VOLPE

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